

**From:** Rick Robino  
**To:** Microsoft ATR,rrobino@wavedivision.com@inetgw  
**Date:** 1/24/02 7:51am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to you from a Windows computer, as a computer professional. My qualifications provide me with an insight that might not be common among the general public, yet I believe they are pertinent to the case settlement pending for Microsoft.

In the interest of brevity, I will state my comment briefly: Microsoft has broken the spirit of many of our laws with it's implicit and consciously strategized monopolistic practices, and where there is no law yet in areas of emerging technology they have taken advantage of their absence, to the detriment of users, businesses, and government. Microsoft has managed to escape all responsibility for the weak Security it has created.

Microsoft apparently believes it is above the law and too influential to be prosecuted. A settlement that involves the U.S. government in aiding Microsoft to expand and continue these practices by eliminating the competition which has heretofore kept their products from leading in the Education market would be an absolute shame.

Microsoft has hurt the advance and prosperity of every other business in the computer industry, simultaneously forcing the choices of nearly every computer user in the U.S. towards their own products. Our country depends on innovation and competition, and our citizens depend on government to ensure a truly free marketplace for the benefit of all.

Our country has the technological upper-hand for the moment, among all of the other countries in the world. However, all of those countries realize that their future, whether or not they will be prosperous, is staked on technological superiority. Stagnated competition in one country will give an edge to other countries wherein competition still provides the impetus to improve the quality, availability, and price of technology products.

I urge you to consider these factors and punish Microsoft for abrogating competition, especially through the very proceedings brought about to deal with their behavior. Please act in a way that encourages a varied landscape of technology, especially computing, by at least requiring that interfaces (not the actual source-code) to the Windows operating systems be made available to all, where both the content and price are the same for all parties - Microsoft included. A break-up of the company where the operating system only is developed by a single company, and other products are developed in other Microsoft companies with no more

access to the API's than any other competitor would promote this idea.

Please, in no case create a settlement which aids and abets the decline of competition, security, privacy, and diversity in the U.S. technology market. Rewarding Microsoft by giving them a strong foothold in the Education sector, at the expense of Apple, Sun and others, is clearly not the correct course.

I hope that your organization remains without corruption and remembers that the U.S. government is by, with and for the people of this country. We are counting on your agency as our representatives to be firm and truly fair, for this is a critical moment in regard to our collective future.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Robino  
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